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July 26, 2010

The Honorable Kim Dunning
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Dear Judge Dunning:

RE: Response to the Orange County Grand Jury Report *Education of Parents in the Development of Strategies to Keep Their Children Out of Gangs*

In accordance with California Penal Code Section 933 and 933.05, the Anaheim City School District is providing responses below to Findings F.1 through F.4 and F.8 and Recommendation R.5 of the above-referenced Orange County Grand Jury report.

Finding F.1

The early gang prevention and intervention efforts provided by the Probation Department, the District Attorney's Office, and such collaborative efforts as the Pio Pico Collaboration are extremely cost effective when compared to the growth of gangs in Orange County and the subsequent cost of prosecution and incarceration of gang members.

Response to Finding F.1

Agreed.

Finding F.2

The most effective way to prevent children from joining gangs in most cases is to work with parents of young children to teach them to spot the danger signs for gang activity and to help them develop effective strategies to keep their children from joining gangs.

Response to Finding F.2

Agreed.

Finding F.3

The most effective time to begin gang prevention efforts is when children are in elementary school.

Response to Finding F.3

Agreed.

Finding F.4

The most effective gang prevention and intervention programs are done by a collaboration of government agencies and private organizations and it is important for governmental entities to support such collaborations.

Response to Finding F.4

Agreed.

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Finding F.8

The Pio Pico Collaboration needs to gain certification so that it may be used as a model program for other cities and school districts throughout Orange County.

Response to Finding F.8

Agreed.

Recommendation R.5

Recommend that school districts with high numbers of at-risk children join forces and exchange information on how to begin gang prevention and intervention programs, how to expand existing programs by working cooperatively, and how to export proven practices to other districts that would benefit from them.

Response to Recommendation R.5

Anaheim City School District has been fortunate to have two schools participating in the GRIP (Gang Reduction Intervention Partnership) program. We have been pleased to share with other school districts many of the strategies, tools, letters, and programs that have been developed through this program. It is always helpful to learn new strategies such as those used in the Pio Pico Collaboration.

Sincerely,



José L. Banda
Superintendent

JLB:taj
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cc: Orange County Grand Jury ✓